

In 1904 Ristenpart was admitted as Privatdocent of Berlin University, where he found much pleasure in teaching. Now and then he made observations at the Urania Observatory. His predilection for observing activity caused him to accept an invitation to the directorship of the National Observatory, Santiago de Chile, where he found a vast sphere for work. This Observatory was in such a desolate state when he went to Chile that even the amplest reforms could not make it a perfect institution. He therefore advocated the building of a large new Observatory on the site of Lo Espejo, outside of the town. His proposals met with much favour from the Chilian Government, and his projects were especially furthered by the President, Don Pedro Montt. This public-spirited man was greatly interested in all sciences, and he generously helped Ristenpart to overcome the considerable financial difficulties.

Ristenpart then began to educate a staff of observers and computers for the varied work of the Observatory. Several great series of observations with the meridian circle, the refractor, and the transit instrument were started. At first all went well, and the progress of his work was astonishing. But when, on 1910 August 16, Pedro Montt suddenly died, the organisation of the Observatory had lost its most active friend and promoter. Owing to the other difficult tasks to be fulfilled by a young country, the interest of the leaders soon waned, and in the last year Ristenpart could scarcely obtain the means necessary for continuing the work which he had already established. His working power, formerly almost without limits, now failed him; his health became more and more precarious, and the prospect of seeing all his projects and hopes wrecked may have caused him to estimate his life worthless. On the morning of 1913 April 9 he voluntarily sought death.

Ristenpart was twice married. He leaves a widow, a son, and three young daughters.

He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society 1912 June 14.

[For the above notice the Council are indebted to Dr. Prager, who was formerly assistant to Dr. Ristenpart at Santiago.]

DAVID SMART was born at Welwyn in Hertfordshire on 1848 September 18. In 1850 his parents left Welwyn for Lakenheath, Suffolk, where, as a little boy, he delighted in watching the stars and took the greatest interest in anything connected with astronomy. He could read at three years of age. His first school was at Stamford in Lincolnshire; from there he went to Denmark Hill Grammar School, and for a short time to Cranbrook Grammar School when he lived in that town. From there he entered as a student at St. Bartholomew's Hospital; he never failed at an examination, and passed his M.R.C.S. Eng. and L.R.C.P. Lond. as soon as he was twenty-one years of age. Having been elected resident House Surgeon to the Surrey Dispensary, he was obliged to take his L.S.A.

At the age of twenty-five he married Miss Mary Thomas, of Usk, and settled down to the practice he bought of Dr. Dixon in the Grange Road, Bermondsey, where he died nearly forty years afterwards. Having a suitable garden, he bought and erected one of Calver's 10-inch reflectors. This was a great source of pleasure to him for years; but latterly the atmosphere of London was too dense for outdoor researches. He was one of the founders of the British Astronomical Association, and for sixteen years was a member of the Council. He prepared the memoir on the observations of Halley's Comet at the recent return, undertaking this heavy work at the request of the Director of the Comet Section. It involved the discussion and condensation of a very large amount of observational material. He was also a member of several of the observing sections of the Association, and some of his drawings and notes are contained in its Memoirs.

He did not communicate any papers in his own name to the Royal Astronomical Society; but Dr. Crommelin has stated that he deserves to be considered a joint author of the series of papers on "The Perturbations of Halley's Comet in the Past," viz. from 240 B.C. to A.D. 1531 (*M.N.*, vol. lxviii.). In conjunction with Mr. F. R. Cripps and Mr. Thomas Wright, he undertook a very large share in the computation of the planetary perturbations. This was to him a labour of love; he took a most lively interest in the progress of the work, and his computation sheets were a model of method and order.

Dr. Smart was Consulting Surgeon to the Surrey Dispensary, Medical Officer to St. Olave's Workhouse, and Public Vaccinator. No doubt the stairs he had to climb at the workhouse and in the model buildings brought on the heart trouble which proved fatal on 1913 March 27. He left a widow, two sons, and a daughter.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society 1889 December 13.

THOMAS ROBERT TERRY was born in 1849, and was educated at St. Peter's School, York. He went to Trinity College, Cambridge, with a minor mathematical scholarship, and was placed fifth among the Wranglers in 1873. Two years later Mr. Baring nominated him to one of his new open scholarships at Hertford College, Oxford. At Oxford Mr. Terry took a first-class in Mathematical Moderations, and won the Junior Mathematical Scholarship. In 1877 he was elected to an open Fellowship in Mathematics at Magdalen College. He resided there as a Fellow for seven years, acting for short periods as Junior Dean and Home Bursar, Mathematical Master at the college school, Mathematical Moderator and Public Examiner in Mathematics, and Mathematical Lecturer at Brasenose College. He contributed to the *Proceedings of the London Mathematical Society*.

Mr. Terry took holy orders in 1879, and was presented by his College in 1884 to the living of East Ilsley, Berks, where he was greatly esteemed. In the summer of 1912 his health broke down,